

2021 IN REVIEW

Uplifting Alabama in a pandemic

The **Alabama Humanities Alliance** believes the humanities have the power to bring Alabamians together and help us see each other as fully human. That idea — and our work — grew in importance in 2021, when AHA programs provided crucial connections in communities separated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alabama Public Humanities Grants

42

awarded

27 Major Grants

9 Mini Grants

6 Media Grants

\$206K funded

Alabama Humanities Recovery Grants (Pandemic Relief)

83

awarded

\$800K funded



TOTAL 2021 GRANT FUNDING

125

awarded

\$1M+ funded

GRANTS

AHA is the primary source of grants for public humanities projects statewide. We offer monthly **Mini Grants** (up to \$2,500), quarterly **Major Grants** (up to \$10,000), and annual **Media Grants** (up to \$15,000). In 2021, we provided an additional round of pandemic recovery funding to

cultural nonprofits and community cornerstones across the state. All AHA grants are funded with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. See pages 40-44 for descriptions of projects funded in 2021.

PROGRAMS

AHA's public programming overcame pandemic challenges by pivoting to virtual when necessary and engaging in person when possible. All programs address the specific needs of Alabama communities while celebrating our shared cultures.



Top: Bryan Fair, *Why It Matters* scholar.
Middle: Water/Ways volunteers in Elba.
Bottom: A student prepares research for Alabama History Day.

12 Why It Matters programs/ podcast episodes

Our series on civic participation featured scholars who spoke about Black Alabamians' insistence on full engagement in the electoral process.

7 SUPER Teacher workshops

We covered topics ranging from civil rights to Alabama waterways to help inspire teachers and increase their knowledge. The no-cost workshops included stipends and continuing education credits.

6 Road Scholar presentations

Our scholar-storytellers hit the road — or the screen — to enlighten and entertain at libraries, museums, community centers, and more.

5 cities host Water/Ways Smithsonian exhibit

Our Museum on Main Street program enables Alabamians to experience Smithsonian exhibits in their hometowns. In 2021-2022, *Water/Ways* toured Danville, Guntersville, Bessemer, Camden, and Elba.

3 books and reading programs

Initiatives included a Humanities and Healthcare virtual book discussion with Alabama Hospital Association

and UAB representatives, a Prison Education correspondence course in reading and writing, and a virtual Prime Time Family Reading program.

1 Alabama History Day contest

Our state contest for National History Day, a competition that engages students (grades 6-12) in creative historical research, advanced 19 winners to the national level.

1 "Reflect, Alabama" panel discussion

This virtual event, part of a conversation series created by AHA's Young Professionals Board, explored what Alabamians have learned about themselves and their communities during the pandemic.

1 "Telling Our Stories: Rural Alabama Communities and Journalism" event

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Maura Casey headlined this conversation in our Democracy and the Informed Citizen program, which promotes rural civic engagement.

36 TOTAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS IN 2021

Thousands of Alabamians engaged statewide

IMPACT ADDS UP

Combining the totals from 2020 and 2021 offers a snapshot of AHA's economic and cultural contributions to Alabama over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

\$1.7M
in total
grant funding

10,000+
public programming
participants

559
jobs preserved or
created statewide
through COVID-19
recovery funding

202
project scholars
engaged in
the humanities

151
public events
statewide (virtual
and in person)